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Title:
Speech notes - Willunga Historic Buildings Ceremony

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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT WILLUNGA
HISTORIC BUILDINGS CEREMONY. 8/8/71.

MR. SCOTT,

MR. CHAPPEL,

PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES,

LADIES & GENTLEMEN:

BEFORE FORMALLY UNVEILING THE PLAQUE ON THE HOTEL I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS FOR ITS IMAGINATION AND INITIATIVE IN LAUNCHING THIS SCHEME.

IT'S PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT A SCHEME SUCH AS THIS, WHICH AIMS TO ENCOURAGE PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION, SHOULD BE LAUNCHED IN A TOWN LIKE WILLUNGA.

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NOT ONLY IS THIS ONE OF THE PRETTIEST PARTS OF OUR STATE, AND ONE OF THE EARLIEST TO BE SETTLED BUT AS THE HALF-WAY HOUSE BETWEEN ADELAIDE AND THE SOUTHERN RESORT TOWNS IT HAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TOURIST INDUSTRY.

BEACHES, WINES AND HISTORY COMPRISE A MOST ATTRACTIVE TOURIST COCKTAIL, PARTICULARLY IF LACED WITH A FINE CLIMATE AND THIS SOUTHERN AREA CAN OFFER ALL FOUR INGREDIENTS.

PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS, THE WILLUNGA ALMOND FESTIVAL AND RENOVATION OF WILLUNGA HOUSE AND THE OLD COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION PROVIDE STRONG INDUCEMENTS FOR TOURISTS, AND ADELAIDE RESIDENTS, TO LINGER HERE ON THEIR WAY SOUTH OR TO MAKE WILLUNGA A DESTINATION IN ITSELF - A DEVELOPMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE OF BENEFIT TO THE TOWN.

BUT, OF COURSE, IT'S NOT ONLY ITS TOURIST APPEAL THAT MAKES THIS SCHEME SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE ONE. OUR HISTORY SINCE SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN COMPARATIVELY BRIEF - THOUGH PRECEDED BY THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF A RICH AND COMPLEX ABORIGINAL CIVILISATION. BUT SHORT AS IT IS, IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT, MATERIAL AND CULTURAL, AND WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO PRESERVE AS MUCH OF IT AS WE POSSIBLY CAN. AND PRESERVATION SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT HOUSES, IT SHOULD ALSO COVER PEOPLE'S HOUSES WHERE THESE HAVE PARTICULAR MERIT OR WHERE THEY ARE ATTRACTIVE, TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF THEIR TIMES. THERE'S AS MUCH HISTORY IN THE VICAR'S AND SLATER'S HOUSE AS THERE IS IN A MANSION AND, INDEED, WE DISTORT OUR VIEW OF HISTORY IF WE LOOK ONLY TO ONE AND IGNORE THE OTHER. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL HISTORY; OURS IS STILL AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY (THOUGH I SOMETIMES THINK THAT IT IS EVER MORE QUICKLY BECOMING LESS SO)...

WE, AS A GOVERNMENT, ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO PRESERVE, AND WHERE NECESSARY RESTORE THESE LEGACIES OF OUR PAST, AS WELL AS TO PRESERVE AND CONSERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE. FOR INSTANCE, THIS YEAR WE ARE SPENDING \$1.2M. FOR THE PURCHASE OF OPEN SPACE IN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA. WE HAVE OTHER SCHEMES UNDER STUDY WHICH I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING TO FRUITION SHORTLY. BUT WITH EVER-INCREASING DEMANDS ON OUR LIMITED RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL SERVICES THE AMOUNT WE CAN ALLOCATE FOR THIS MUST NECESSARILY BE FINITE AND NOT AS MUCH AS WE WOULD WISH.

THE INSTITUTE'S PLAN THEREFORE IS DOUBLY PLEASING IN THAT IT IS A FURTHER ARROW IN THE QUIVER OF OUR GROWING TOURIST EXPANSION EFFORT AND IN THAT IT ENCOURAGES, IN A MOST PRACTICAL AND USEFUL WAY AND SUPPLEMENTS GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER EFFORTS IN THE PRESERVATION OF OUR HERITAGE. YOU'VE SAID MR. SCOTT THAT YOU CONSIDER TODAY'S CEREMONY TO BE A FORERUNNER OF OTHERS. I HOPE THIS WILL BE SO AND THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO EXTEND YOUR ACTIVITIES TO OTHER AREAS.

I NOW HAVE VERY GREAT PLEASURE IN UNVEILING THE PLAQUE.

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